



**Intercontinental Terminals Company (ITC) Fire Update
Deer Park, Texas
April 9, 2019 0000 – April 9, 2019 1159**

Incident Management Objectives:

Objective 1: Ensure the health and safety of the public and response personnel.

Objective 2: Establish an incident management structure and processes employing the Incident Command System to enable effective overall management of the event with deployment of resources (staff and equipment) in a rapid, focused and well-coordinated manner.

Objective 3: Encourage a collaborative federalism approach, where Federal, State, Tribal, and local governments interact cooperatively and collectively to solve common problems.

Objective 4: Take actions to assess the on-site and off-site impacts during the emergency response phase of this incident. Provide this information to state and local authorities to assist them in their decision to protect the local citizens.

Objective 5: Conduct activities to prevent off-site releases from the ITC Tank Farm.

Objective 6: Respond to, mitigate and recovery off-site releases from the ITC Tank Farm.

Objective 7: Maintain open communication with Regional management

Incident Overview:

On March 17, 2019, an above ground storage tank containing Naphtha, caught fire at the Intercontinental Terminal Company (ITC), LLC facility in Deer Park Texas. The ITC facility consists of 15 80,000-barrel capacity above ground storage tanks containing petroleum products including Naphtha, Xylene, Toluene, Gasoline Blendstock, and Base Oil. Eleven of the 15 80,000-barrel capacity above ground storage tanks on site were involved in the fire, resulting in the release of contaminants into the atmosphere, as well discharging the contents of the tanks to drainage pathways. Firefighting water and foam potentially containing petroleum products were released from an outfall due to accumulation of water from firefighting efforts. Various firefighting organizations assisted in putting out the fire utilizing a variety of firefighting foams.

A partial breach of the tank farm containment wall on the northeast side near Tank 80-7 occurred at approximately 12:00 pm on March 22, 2019, to the ditched area and into Tucker Bayou. Additional boom was placed along the ditch leading to Tucker Bayou and Buffalo Bayou (Houston Ship Channel). The Responsible Party's contractor has rebuilt the containment wall using clay material.

At approximately 3:40 pm on March 22, 2019, three tanks reignited. The fire spread from the containment area through the breached containment wall into the ditch along Tidal Road. Foam was applied to the tanks and the ditch to extinguish the fire.

As a result of the fire, nine of the fifteen oil tanks had been burned and collapsed. One of the tanks had been burned and damaged, but not completely collapsed. Two tanks had become overheated and smoked but were not significantly damaged. Four of the tanks had smoked but did not burn.

During and after the fire and the breach of the secondary containment, several readings of benzene above 1.0 ppm were detected (highest was 16.5 near National Tank Services) by the various entities conducting air monitoring through the afternoon and night. These readings were located along the ship channel.

A vessel decontamination plan was approved on March 27, 2019. The plan established procedures for decontamination of large and small vessels. Also, the plan describes how the decontamination team will utilize resources that include barge boats equipped with a hot water pressure washer, support boats for assessment team members, containment boom and absorbent sweep, rags, absorbent pads, cleaning agents, personal protective equipment (PPE), boat operators, and technicians.

On March 31, 2019, EPA and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) posted the Story Map Resource Interactive tool for the ITC incident. The Story Map provides easy access for ITC fire data.

Executive Overview:

- On April 9, 2019, the Unified Command formed Technical Working Group continued to develop a process for tracking response progress and a draft Transition Plan from response operation over to normal operations.

Land Operations:

- On April 9, 2019, approximately ten barrels (bbls) of recovered material was spilled on land during vacuum truck recovery operations due to operator error. The TCEQ has been notified and will follow up.
- On April 9, 2019, the Harris County Fire Marshall (HCFM) conducted a source of fire investigation in the impacted tank farm; operations are approved to be continued at all tanks except for tank 80-8.
- ITC continued degassing process for tanks 80-13, 80-14, and 80-15 and limited transfer activity using vacuum trucks continued during the HCFM investigation conducted on April 9, 2019. Degassing of tanks 80-7 and 80-10 commenced during the evening hours or the early morning hours (0100 – 0200 hours) of April 10, 2019.
- ITC completed the cleaning of Tank 80-2, continued to clean Tank 80-3, and will initiate tank cleaning operations for Tanks 80-5 and 80-6.
- On April 9, 2019, during the Stakeholders Conference Call at 2000 hours, several Stakeholders expressed concern about when the road closure for Independence Parkway will be lifted so that they can resume normal operations. Unified Command will meet on April 10, 2019 to discuss this issue.
- ITC continues applying foam to the tanks and tank farm area as needed.

Water Operations:

- On April 9, 2019, Division D reported that an alligator is hindering recovery operations at Bostco Dock. Wildlife Branch has been notified and will develop a procedure to address the issue.
- On April 9, 2019, ITC continued flushing operations into Tucker Bayou to direct product to Dock 4 area skimmers and Marco boat skimmers. In the afternoon, 18"-boom was added to the north side of Dow Bridge, in order to control the amount of product being tidally flushed south; back into Tucker Bayou.
- EPA conducted surface water sampling on April 9, 2019 at 10 sample locations. The surface water samples were collected along Buffalo Bayou and the San Jacinto River and will be analyzed for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs), chemical oxygen demand (COD), and oil & grease. The results from the sampling event were compared to the TCEQ Surface Water Quality Standards (WQS), or to TCEQ Texas Risk Reduction Program surface water protective concentration levels (PCLs), if a WQS was not available for a chemical. On March 21, 2019, the surface water sample collected at the confluence of Tucker Bayou and Buffalo Bayou (BB-02) exceeded the PCL for oil and grease, and the WQS for naphthalene, benzene and total xylenes. On March 25, 2019, the surface water sample collected on Buffalo Bayou at the Battleship Texas (BB-05) exceeded the PCL for oil and grease. On March 30, 2019, the surface water sample collected at BB-02 exceeded the WQS for 1,2,4-trichlorobenzene. On April 2, 2019, the surface water sample collected at BB-05 exceeded the WQS for 2-methylnaphthalene and phenanthrene. No other exceedances have been observed.
- The United States Coast Guard (USCG) Captain of the Port continues the controlled open for the Ship Channel, with traffic during the daytime only. Decontamination vessels are being positioned to help ships that may have residue on the hulls.
- As of Tuesday, April 9, 2019:
 - 207,340 feet of boom deployed
 - 125,346 bbl of product/water recovered from water operations
 - 171,528 bbl of product/water recovered from tank farm
 - Approximately 465,000 gallons of foam concentrate have been used for fire-fighting/suppression and emission suppression

Total Vessels as of April 9, 2019				
Work Boats	Barges	Small Capacity Skimming Vessels	Skimmers	Total Vessels
103	100	25	111	339

Community Air Monitoring:

- Several entities including TCEQ, EPA, and ITC continue to conduct air monitoring around the tank farm, in adjoining industrial areas, and communities downwind from the facility.
- EPA conducted handheld air monitoring on April 9, 2019, from 00:00 to 23:59 at 49 locations in the surrounding communities. Results were reported above the detection limit at two locations for total volatile organic compounds (VOCs). EPA will continue to conduct additional air monitoring and deploy the Trace Atmospheric Gas Analyzer (TAGA) to determine if VOCs continue to be detected.
- The Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology (ASPECT) aircraft found no exceedances of the Texas comparison values on April 9, 2019 during flight 22. ASPECT has conducted a screening level assessment to evaluate the unreported or undetected releases of hazardous materials or contaminants at the Intercontinental Terminal Company (ITC) in Deer Park, Texas. The screening level results from ASPECT were compared to the ASPECT list of TCEQ short-term Air

Monitoring Comparison Values (AMCVs) and found no exceeds of the short-term AMCVs. No chemicals were detected by the ASPECT.

- EPA conducted air sampling using the TAGA on April 9, 2019. The TAGA analyzed the air samples for benzene, toluene and xylene. The TAGA air sampling results were compared to the TCEQ short-term AMCVs and found no exceedances of the short-term AMCVs for toluene and xylene. The TAGA air sampling results found an exceedance of the short-term AMCV for benzene (0.18 ppm) north of the ITC facility. These results have been shared with unified command and local officials.

Coordination with State Agencies:

On March 17, 2019, in response to a tank fire at the ITC, federal, state and local agencies joined ITC in a Unified Command. Multiple agencies including the United States Coast Guard, the TCEQ, and Harris County Pollution Control Services supported the response effort.

EPA Resources:

Personnel	EPA R6 Dallas	ITC Deer Park	Total
EPA Region 6	11	11	22
EPA Non-Region 6	0	5	5
START	1	20	21
Other Contractors	0	8	8
Total	12	44	56

Additional Information: Air Monitoring and Water Sampling locations.

